



Week ending March 20, 2009



The White Sands Missile Range team has erected all of the structural steel for levels 6 through 8 of the gantry for the Orion Ascent Abort 1. The team continued installing handrails and grating up through level 8 and continued prepping the flip-up portions of the work platforms so they will be ready for installation. The assembling panels on the ground for gantry levels 9 through 11 were completed for erection at a later date.



The T-0 thermal door completed all three axes of vibration testing with no apparent anomalies, and the T-0 electrical door completed two (Y and Z) of the three axes. The T-0 electrical door was tested with no problems in both the Y and Z directions. Electrical door vibrate in the X-axis direction will be repeated because of rubber fatigue from the number of vibration cycles.

The Ascent Abort 1 (AA-1) Crew Module bulkhead hardware (Photo below) alignment of the components on the bulkhead assembly fixture are complete and match drilling of hardware continues.



The AA-1 heat shield assembly is progressing and expected to be complete by late April. The remaining work includes final drilling/reaming and installation of permanent fasteners. The AA-1 CM heat shield will be moved onto a short stand and leveled prior to installing the bulkhead support GSE structure (Photo right).

The AA-1 Bulkhead Support GSE Structure is complete with the exception of the small part fabrication to complete the temporary attachment to the AA-1 Heat Shield Assembly. The GSE structure serves as a temporary support and location aid for the bulkhead while the longerons are being installed.

